

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 17, 27 and 28; and
cancel claim 4 without prejudice and disclaimer as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
initiating a provision of a service for at least two parties;
verifying that each of the at least two parties is capable of paying for use of the service;
generating payment information by communicating at least one message between the at least two parties regarding a principle for paying a fee for the use of the service and including the principle in the payment information, and wherein communicating the at least one message between the at least two parties comprises agreeing, between the at least two parties, to an occurrence that unambiguously defines a party who is responsible for paying for use of the service; and
charging for use of the service based on the payment information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the initiating comprises initiating a provision of a game.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim—41, wherein the agreeing comprises defining the occurrence to be losing a game.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising reserving for a party payment resources from a prepaid account of the party and including information of the reserved payment resources in the payment information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reserving comprises reserving the payment resources in an online charging system.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising charging the service to the reserved payment resources and returning unused payment resources.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the charging comprises charging the service to one of the at least two parties.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending at least one message in accordance with Session Initiation Protocol.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an enabler configured to enable simultaneous provision of a service for at least two parties;

a verifier configured to verify that the at least two parties using the service are capable of paying for use of the service; and

a generator configured to provide payment information for the use of the service by the at least two parties for use in charging for the use of the service by communicating at least one message between the at least two parties regarding a principle for paying a fee for the use of the service and including the principle in the payment information, and wherein communicating the at least one message between the at least two parties comprises agreeing, between the at least two parties, to an occurrence that unambiguously defines a party who is responsible for paying for use of the service.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a charger configured to charge the service based on the payment information.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the apparatus is one of a serving controller and an application server.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a game server.

21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, said computer program configured to control a processor to perform:

initiating a provision of a service for at least two parties;

verifying that each of the at least two parties is capable of paying for use of the service;

generating payment information by communicating at least one message between the at least two parties regarding a principle for paying a fee for the use of the service and including the principle in the payment information, and wherein communicating the at least one message between the at least two parties comprises agreeing, between the at least two parties, to an occurrence that unambiguously defines a party who is responsible for paying for use of the service; and

charging for use of the service based on the payment information.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

enabling means for enabling simultaneous provision of a service for at least two parties;

verifying means for verifying that the at least two parties using the service are capable of paying for use of the service; and

generating means for generating payment information for the use of the service by the at least two parties for use in charging for the use of the service by communicating at least one message between the at least two parties regarding a principle for paying a fee for the use of the service and including the principle in the payment information, and

wherein communicating the at least one message between the at least two parties comprises agreeing means for agreeing, between the at least two parties, to an occurrence that unambiguously defines a party who is responsible for paying for use of the service.